

## Message Text

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MCE-00 /119 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM  
-----103384 290231Z /70

O 290129Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
USICA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC 0000

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 28

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 28, 1978.  
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

MR. CARTER: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL SEND UP  
LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION ON THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF  
OUR ARMS PROPOSALS FOR EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND ISRAEL  
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THIS AFTERNOON AROUND 3:00. AS SOON AS THEY HAVE REACHED  
CONGRESS, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE HERE, I HOPE, BY LATE  
AFTERNOON FOR THOSE WHO WANT THEM. THE 30-DAY CLOCK  
BEGINS RUNNING UPON RECEIPT.

ALSO, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO  
SENATOR CHURCH OUTLINING OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT.  
THAT IS NOT FOR US TO RELEASE, BUT SENATOR CHURCH SHOULD  
BE RECEIVING IT IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY.

IN THE MORNING MEETING TODAY, THE SECRETARY HAD WITH  
SENATORS BYRD, BAKER, RIBICOFF, JAVITS AND CASE, IN  
WHICH MRS. BENSON AND WARREN CHRISTOPHER ALSO SAT IN,  
THE SENATORS, THE SECRETARY AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS WHICH WILL

BE IN THE LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION. THEY EXCHANGED  
VIEWS ON THOSE ELEMENTS. I THINK THAT THE SENATORS  
SPOKE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY CAME DOWNSTAIRS. WE INTEND  
TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ASKING ME, THERE IS NO DATE

SET YET BY EITHER THE HOUSE OR SENATE COMMITTEES FOR THE SECRETARY'S APPEARANCE. I'M SURE THAT THEY WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

Q. IS IT CERTAIN THAT HE WILL GO TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BECAUSE THERE WAS ONE REPORT INDICATING THAT THEY WEREN'T GOING TO HOLD HEARINGS.

A. I AM SIMPLY TELLING YOU THAT THE SECRETARY HAS NO DATE SET. BUT HE IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO APPEAR, AND WILL APPEAR ON THE QUESTION WHEN THEY SET A DATE AND ASK HIM TO COME. THE SECRETARY FELT THAT THE MEETINGS THIS MORNING WERE BOTH HELPFUL AND A GOOD EXCHANGE. AS FAR AS THOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE HOUSE ARE CONCERNED, WE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HOUSE MEMBERS AS WELL ON THIS SAME SUBJECT, AND WE, OF COURSE, ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS.

Q. THE SENATORS, AS THEY EMERGED, CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOW CONSIDERING BREAKING UP THE PACKAGE, REMOVING THE ALL-OR-NOTHING CONCEPT. ONE: HAS THAT DECISION BEEN MADE? AND, TWO: DOES IT HAVE TO BE MADE WHEN IT GOES UP THIS AFTERNOON AT 3:00?

A. TO BEGIN WITH, TECHNICALLY THERE WAS NEVER A PACKAGE, THAT IS, EACH ONE OF THEM HAS TO GO UP SEPARATELY. THAT IS A FACT OF LEGAL LIFE. LET ME JUST REITERATE SOMETHING HERE: CONGRESS CAN, WILL, AND LEGALLY SHALL TAKE EACH OF THE ELEMENTS, DEBATE THEM, AND MAKE ITS DECISION ON THEM. THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT EACH OF THE THREE IS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND TO THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE REGION AND TO THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED.

Q. THAT DOESN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION. DO YOU, THE ADMINISTRATION, IN POLITICAL TERMS -- ACTUALLY, IT'S FOUR PROPOSALS, TWO FOR ISRAEL -- DO YOU CONSIDER THE FOUR PROPOSALS TO BE AN INTEGRAL PACKAGE WHICH MUST BE ACCEPTED INTACT OR PULLED BACK?

A. WHAT WE BELIEVE IS THAT THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE MADE ARE AS I HAVE OUTLINED THEM. WE UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE, THAT CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER THEM SEPARATELY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE, OR RATHER THE NON-REJECTION, OF THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE INTEREST OF THE REGION.

Q. I GUESS THE CORE QUESTION HERE IS WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION STILL FEELS, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID ONCE, THAT IF ANY PART OF THIS SERIES OF PROPOSALS IS REJECTED, HE WOULD PULL THEM ALL BACK? IS THAT STILL THE POSITION?

A. I THINK THAT ON THE QUESTION OF OUR POSITION, IN EXACT LANGUAGE, I WOULD RATHER WAIT FOR SENATOR CHURCH TO RELEASE HIS LETTER.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THE LETTER THAT THE SECRETARY SENT TO CHURCH CONTAINS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO RAISE HERE.

A. YES. AND I DON'T WANT TO ANNOUNCE IT UNTIL THE SENATOR HAS RECEIVED IT.

Q. BAKER AND BYRD TALKED ABOUT A "NEW FLEXIBILITY."

A. YES, I NOTICED, THANKS TO YOU, THAT THEY SAID VARIOUS THINGS INCLUDING THE THOUGHT THAT THEY FELT THAT NOBODY WANTED A CONFRONTATION, EITHER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE CONGRESS ON THE SENATE SIDE. I THINK THE PHRASE "DIFFUSE THE CONFRONTATION" WAS USED BY TWO.

Q. I WAS GOING TO ASK, DOES THE FLEXIBILITY INVOLVE A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER ALL-OR-NOTHING AS ONE OPTION, BUT TO HAVE OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AS WELL?

A. I THINK ON THAT ONE, I WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO SAY THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE OF ALL THREE ARE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERESTS OF THE REGION. AND I THINK THAT IS ABOUT AS FAR AS I CAN GO WITH IT.

Q. YOU DIDN'T ANSWER ANOTHER PART OF THE QUESTION. HAS THE DECISION BEEN MADE, AND DOES IT HAVE TO BE MADE WHEN THESE PROPOSALS GO FORWARD THIS AFTERNOON?

A. THE DECISION IS MADE LEGALLY. THEY GO UP SEPARATELY.

Q. THE PACKAGE CONCEPT, THE ALL-OR-NOTHING CONCEPT?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE OF ALL OF THEM IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION AND OF STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE LONG-TERM IN THAT AREA.

Q. WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS?

A. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF THAT QUESTION. I THINK I POSTED THE ANSWER ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NUMBERS CAN BE CHANGED UNILATERALLY BY CONGRESS. THE ANSWER IS NO. I CAN'T SPECULATE ON ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. AGAIN I REPEAT, THE PACKAGE WE HAVE OFFERED IS NECESSARY.

Q. ON CLARIFICATION, THEN IS THERE WERE TO BE A CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS, YOU WOULD HAVE TO RESUBMIT?

A. NO. TECHNICALLY, IF THERE WERE A CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS, IT COULD BE DONE BY CONSENT; AND IF THE CLOCK IS STILL RUNNING AT THE TIME OF CONSENT, IT DOESN'T START THE CLOCK OVER AGAIN. YOU KNOW, MUTUAL CONCERN.  
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Q. DOES THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT AS WELL? THE QUESTION OF NUMBERS?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF IT. I DON'T THINK THAT IS SPELLED OUT. IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL THE PARTIES.

Q. THERE IS NO INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLANES, FOR INSTANCE, TO ISRAEL?

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. THE LETTERS OF OFFER THAT ARE GOING UP ARE THE SAME?

A. THE LETTERS THAT ARE GOING UP FOLLOW PRECISELY THE NUMBERS, AND EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION. I, UNFORTUNATELY, DON'T HAVE THEM. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE THEM BEFOREHAND SO I COULD GIVE THEM TO YOU. AROUND 3:00 P.M.

THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GOING UP.

Q. HODDING, ARE THOSE JUST BRIEF LETTERS OR ARE THERE A LOT OF SUPPORTING STUFF IN THEM?

A. I DON'T KNOW PRECISELY. THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING FOR THEM EARLIER, SO I WOULD KNOW. IT IS TECHNICALLY A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH OUR CERTIFICATION OF THEM ATTACHED. I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG THEY ARE; I DON'T KNOW HOW VOLUMINOUS.

Q. IF THERE WERE TO BE SPECIFIC GUARANTEES RELATING TO THE SAUDI DEAL, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD THAT BE ATTACHED TO THESE LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION?

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A. NO. AS SENATOR BYRD SAID, I THINK THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES OF UNDERSTANDINGS, NUANCES, POSSIBLE ASSURANCES AS WITH THE AWACS, WHICH DO NOT GO TO THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE WEAPON SYSTEMS, OR WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE, ARE IN FACT HANDED OVER. BUT AS TO EVERYTHING FROM POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT TO -- I MEAN, I CAN'T GIVE YOU ALL THE VARIATIONS, BUT THOSE THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THEN, THERE COULD BE THE MIDDLE EAST EQUIVALENT OF A DECONCINI RESERVATION, WHICH WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO AN ALTERATION IF YOUR LEGAL SENSE OF THE WORD THAT YOU USED BEFORE ON AN ACTUAL ALTERATION OF A PROPOSAL?

A. I WOULD NOTE THAT ALREADY CERTAIN ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY AT LEAST ONE OF THE PARTIES WHICH DON'T AFFECT THE NUMBERS, DON'T AFFECT THE DATES AT WHICH THEY WILL BE HANDED OVER, BUT AFFECT THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE SYSTEMS AND THAT KIND OF THING.

Q. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE SAUDI'S PROMISE NOT TO STATION THEM AT TABUK?

A. THAT IS CERTAINLY AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR BEST READING NOW OF THE FATE THESE VARIOUS PROPOSALS WILL HAVE IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE AND IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE:

A. LET ME SAY GENERALLY THAT WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSALS  
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WILL, AFTER CONSULTATION AND DEBATE, BE APPROVED.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE MARGIN OF APPROVAL IN EACH OF THE TWO COMMITTEES TO BE THE SAME?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA. YOU UNDERSTAND IN ANY CASE THE TECHNICAL FRAME HERE REQUIRES REJECTION BY BOTH HOUSES IN A SIMPLE MAJORITY.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THAT IT WILL GO TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO IS GOING TO TAKE IT UP FIRST.

Q. DO I UNDERSTAND YOU RIGHT, THAT THIS WHOLE ISSUE OF THE PACKAGE IS AN ISSUE THAT THE SECRETARY DOES ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY IN THE LETTER TO SENATOR CHURCH?

A. IT IS ADDRESSED.

Q. AND THAT COULD HAVE A RATHER LARGE BEARING, THEREFORE, UPON THE CONGRESS' REACTION?

A. WHAT WE ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN IS FOR THE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS IN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH WE ARE PRESENTING THEM, WHICH IS THAT THEY ARE ALL INDIVIDUALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND WE BELIEVE TO THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA AND TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES INVOLVED. WE THINK THAT THE DEBATE AND FINAL OUTCOME OF THAT SHOULD BE ON THAT BASIS.

Q. WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU DON'T WANT THE CONGRESS TO GET HUNG UP OVER PROCEDURAL ISSUES?

A. I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANY MORE THAN WHAT I'VE ALREADY  
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SAID.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT IF THE NEW IDEAS PRESENTED BY DAYAN TO SECRETARY VANCE REPRESENT IN YOUR TERMS PROGRESS TOWARD REVIVING DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS?

A. LET ME GIVE YOU SORT OF A GENERAL THESIS FROM THE SECRETARY ON THE TALKS. I DON'T KNOW IF IT GIVES YOU A DIRECT ANSWER TO THAT OR NOT.

THE SESSIONS THAT HE HAD, WHICH WERE AS YOU KNOW LENGTHY, WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER, PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE KEY ISSUES

WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED IN A NEGOTIATED PEACE. THE IMPORTANT THING TO NOTE IS THAT THOSE ISSUES ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE PARTIES, INCLUDING OBVIOUSLY THE EGYPTIANS, IN QUITE CONCRETE WAYS.

THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES ARE NOT NEW TO YOU. THEY DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIANS, THE FUTURE PARTICULARLY OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WITHOUT SOME UNDERSTANDING ON THESE ISSUES, WE DON'T REALLY SEE HOW A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES CAN BE ACHIEVED.

THE TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, AS IN AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S MOST RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT, HAVE CONCENTRATED ON HOW TO MOVE FORWARD ON THOSE ISSUES, THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE PARTICULARLY.

OUR ROLE IS TO HELP FIND A MIDDLE GROUND WHERE THE PARTIES WANT US TO DO SO. IN THE CASE OF THE WEST  
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BANK AND THE GAZA ISSUES, WE CAN'T DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED WITHOUT A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE EACH SIDE STANDS AND WHAT IT SEES IN PRACTICAL TERMS AS THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY FEELS THAT THE TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN WERE GOOD AND USEFUL.

AS I SAID YESTERDAY -- I DIDN'T REALLY MAKE IT CLEAR ENOUGH -- BUT IN ANY CASE, BOTH SIDES ARE REFLECTING ON THE EXCHANGES THAT THEY HAD AND WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q. IS THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES NOW STILL THE TARGET?

Q. WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS A NECESSARY UMBRELLA. WE ALSO FEEL THAT DISCUSSING THE CONCRETE ASPECTS UNDER THAT UMBRELLA IS ALSO A USEFUL EXERCISE.

Q. BUT YOU CAN'T GET AROUND THE CONCRETE SPECIFICS



WITHOUT HAVING THE UMBRELLA. CAN YOU NOW CIRCUMVENT THE UMBRELLA IF THE SEMANTICS PROVE TO BE TOO GREAT A PROBLEM?

A. I DONT THINK ANY OF THAT HAS BEEN DETERMINED. WE ARE SIMPLY DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES IN AN ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT BOTH. WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS THE USEFUL UMBRELLA. BUT

I THINK WE ARE REALLY INTO, AS ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES KEEPS SAYING PEELING THE ONION.

Q. IN THE PREPARED PART OF YOUR PRESENTATION IT SOUNDS VERY MUCH AS IF THE SECRETARY IS EMBRACING WHAT DAYAN UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY. YOU SAY WITHOUT SOME AGREEMENT ON THESE PROBLEMS, SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS, YOU DONT SEE HOW A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES CAN BE ACHIEVED. THIS IS PRECISELY THE POINT THAT DAYAN WAS TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY.

A. I UNDERSTNAD THAT. BUT THAT IN NO WAY SUGGESTS HOWEVER THAT WE DONT THINK THAT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AN OVER-ARCHING UMBRELLA.

Q. BUT IT SUGGESTS THAT THE CART CAN COME BEFORE THE HORSE.

A. WE HAVE NEVER SUGGESTED YOU CANT CHEW GUM AND WALK DOWN STEPS. I MEAN, WE ARE TRYING TO MOVE THIS THING FORWARD AS BEST WE CAN.

Q. DOES THIS PRESUPPOSE THAT THE IMMEDIATE OUTCOME OF THESE REFLECTIONS IS GOING TO BE A RESUMPTION OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE?

A. I DONT HAVE ANY PROJECTION ON THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESUMPTION AT ALL. I JUST DONT KNOW.

Q. WELL, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT RESOLUTION OF THREE THINGS, ONE OF WHICH IS AN UNDERSTANDING ON 242, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL ON ALL FRONTS. HOW DOES WHAT YOU HAVE DESCRIBED HERE GET AROUND THAT BASIC ISSUE?

A. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ALL THESE ISSUES HAVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BE RESOLVED ULTIMATELY BETWEEN THE PARTIES. WE CANT RESOLVE THEM . THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY OUR OBJ ECTIVE IS IN THE LARGEST SENSE TO SEE THAT THOSE DIRECT DISCUSSIONS COMMENCE. TO DO THAT, HOWEVER, WE ARE TRYING TO HELP THE PARTIES, AS THEY ASK US, TO BRING SOME NARROWING, AS WE HAVE SAID A MILLION TIMES, ON DIFFERENCES THAT THEY HAVE. THAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR EXERCISE NOW AND HAS BEEN.

Q. ISNT IT TRUE THAT UP UNTIL RECENT WEEKS ANYWAY THE THRUST OF THE AMERICAN POLICY HAS BEEN AIMED AT ACHIEVING THIS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT YOU ARE SAYING TODAY IS THAT STILL CONTINUES, BUT IS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE PRIMARY THRUST OF THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT RIGHT NOW, WHICH SEEMS TO LEAPFROG THE DECLARATION TO GO INTO THE SPECIFICS.

A. I DONT WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT A PRIME OBJECTIVE, A MAJOR OBJECTIVE, IS THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. I SIMPLY AM SAYING THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH A NUMBER OF ISSUES, AND THAT IS ONE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS; AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON THE QUESTION OF THE DECLARATION. BUT THERE ARE COMPONENTS THAT GO INTO IT AS WELL.

Q. AN ISRAELI STORY THAT EMERGED LAST NIGHT -- I JUST WANTED TO CHECK ITS ACCURACY WITH YOU -- WAS THAT REALLY NOT MUCH TIME WAS SPENT AT ALL IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS ON THE LANGUAGE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE DECLARATION SO MUCH AS THE SPECIFIC MEANING OF ALL OF THOSE WORDS.

A. I HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF WHAT ISRAELI SOURCES HAVE  
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SAID, AND I REALLY DONT WANT TO GET TOO MUCH INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF IT. I WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, LEAD YOU AWAY FROM THINKING THAT WE DIDNT TALK ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE AS WELL AS LANGUAGE MATTERS.

BUT YOU ASKED ME A SPECIFIC QUESTION. I AM NOT PREPARED FROM THIS PODIUM TO GIVE YOU A PERCENTAGE

OF TIME THAT WAS SPENT ON THESE ISSUES.

Q. YOU SAID THAT YOU EXPECTED INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT WOULD BEGIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DOES THIS MEAN AN ATHERTON MISSION?

A. NO. I CANT REALLY SPECIFY ON THAT. I WOULD JUST SAY THAT THESE WILL CONTINUE. AS TO WHEN, I DONT KNOW.

Q. SECONDLY, WHAT EFFECT DO THE DAYAN TALKS HAVE ON MONDAY'S TALKS WITH BEGIN? WILL THEY BE MORE SUBSTANTIVE AS A RESULT? WILL THEY BE LONGER? WILL THERE BE ANY EFFECT ON THEM?

A. I DONT KNOW. I KNOW ON MONDAY BEFORE HE GOES TO CINCINNATI, WHICH IS THE FIRST, THE SECRETARY WILL BE HAVING A LUNCH, AS I RECALL, WITH MR. BEGIN. I CANT GIVE YOU A PROJECTION.

Q. WHAT SORT OF TALKS TO YOU EXPECT TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY? IS IT JUST A CEREMONIAL MEETING?

A. I DONT THINK YOU WOULD DESIGNATE THESE AS CEREMONIAL MEETINGS.

Q. WELL, ARE THEY EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUE THE DAYAN TALKS?

A. I THINK THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL IS TALKING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE NOT ENGAGING IN CEREMONIAL DISCUSSION.

Q. YESTERDAY THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED WHETHER HE EXPECTED A RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELIS TO THE REQUESTED CLARIFICATIONS AND HE SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHEN IT WOULD BE COMING. IS THERE SOMETHING THAT REMAINS TO BE DISCUSSED FROM THE DAYAN TALKS?

A. I THINK YOU CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT THERE IS A LOT LEFT TO DISCUSS. VANCE

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